



## **State of Illinois**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IDOT Begins Eastern Bypass Study**

### **Public Kickoff Meeting Scheduled**

Peoria, IL - The Illinois Department of Transportation has begun the study of an eastern bypass in the tri-county area. This study will begin with determining a corridor location for a facility, intended to join Interstate 74 with Illinois Route 6, in the Peoria Metropolitan Area. Counties within the study area include Peoria, Woodford, and Tazewell.

The study has been divided into two phases, a Corridor Study and an Alignment Study, with the Corridor Study just now getting underway. The Corridor Study is intended to determine the best general area for the Bypass. Once that area has been identified, the Alignment Study will determine the best actual route location within the selected corridor.

IDOT will hold a public "kickoff" meeting on July 29 at the Countryside Banquet Facility in Washington to: 1) introduce the public to the Corridor Study; 2) receive public questions and comments about the project and its study elements; and, 3) solicit membership on the study's Community Advisory Group.

The meeting will run from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. and will be conducted in an open house format. Individuals are welcome to attend at any time to informally discuss the study with members of IDOT's project team. At least twice during the open house, a formal presentation will be given to present details of the study in a group setting. We expect the presentations to take place at approximately 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.

The study is being developed as a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) project. Under CSS, our goal is to not only address safety and mobility but also to preserve or enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the area. The study includes an extensive stakeholder involvement program which allows the department to work closely with area residents to better identify the unique and valued aspects of the project area's environment and communities. In this way, creative and flexible designs can be developed that are sensitive to those valued qualities.

We encourage all who are interested to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the Eastern Bypass Study.



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